From: Barker, Philip

To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'

Date: 1/8/02 11:47am

Subject: Microsoft and litigation

As a computer reseller in metropolitan Detroit, the actions taken by your government organization against Microsoft has had profound changes in the perception of the computer industry with our commercial customers.

Prior to the economic declines in August 2000, many companies held off on implementing technology in the workplace that would improve productivity based on the actions of Justice Department actions against Microsoft. These Justice Department actions created an aura of uncertainty in the minds of our commercial customers and postponed any decision on technology implementations -- thus slowing everything down.

You really put a stick in the spokes of progress.

I believe these Justice Department actions have jammed up the American economy, jobs and economic livelihood of millions of people and tens of thousands of viable technology companies.

We have been reselling PC computer products since the early 1980's and I can tell you that the wild west frontier of the early 1980 in selling computer products was truly a 'snake oil' environment. Rife with deceptive advertising, 'vaporware' products, products that did not work as advertised, multiple bugs and the list of horrors goes on.

What Microsoft did in the 1980's was develop a 'standardized' platform whereby programmers and computer component manufacturer companies could develop and market products with a relative confidence that the products would work.

Upon this standardized platform, the market for PC computer technology was born along with millions of jobs and taxpaying companies -- all working together to move the technology of America forward - increase our standards of living and our place on earth.

My firm belief is that the actions of the Justice Department will deal a blow to the concept of 'standardized' platforms -- a return the wild west days of 'snake oil' computer solutions full of bugs and a return to vaporware and a disjointed technology industry -- a scrambled mess.

I recommend the following:

- 1) Make your decision soon so America can return to forward momentum
- 2) Take into account that Microsoft has developed a Technology industry in America that has created millions of jobs and taxpaying companies
- 3) A return to the anarchy and awkward technology business practices of the

early 1980's benefits no-one and will drain American productivity
4) Be fair to the American public and the technology companies that employ them

Sincerely,
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